
A New *Ocotea* (Lauraceae) from the High Mountains of Costa Rica and Panama

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ABSTRACT. *Ocotea pharomachrosorum* (Lauraceae), of the *Ocotea helecterifolia*-group from Costa Rica and Panama, is described here.

Within the large genus *Ocotea* Aublet (Lauraceae), this new species belongs to the *Ocotea helecterifolia*-group. This group contains numerous borderline cases between the genera *Ocotea*, *Nectandra*, and *Phoebe* (Rohwer, 1991; 1992 in litt.). However, its outer tepals are glabrous inside, the inner ones have only a few papillae and the anthers are fleshy and smooth, not papillate, nor hood-shaped; these are all *Ocotea*-like characters. Although this species was collected for the first time several years ago, the material was insufficient to describe it. This collection was treated by Rohwer (1991) as *Ocotea* sp. A and by Burger & van der Werff (1991) as "a species of uncertain position."

Ocotea pharomachrosorum Gómez-Laurito, sp. nov. TYPE: Costa Rica. San José: Dota, San Gerardo, Finca de Efraín Chacón, 10°32'20"N, 83°49'05"W, 2,100–2,200 m, 10 feb. 1992, J. Gómez-Laurito, J. A. López, A. Mora & W. Barillas 12160 (holotype, CR; isotypes, F, MO, K, USJ). Figure 1.

A speciebus quas Rohwer ad species e turma helecterifolia ascripsit combinatione indumenti densissimi crispatis cum basibus foliorum inaequalateralibus et nervis lateralibus utroque 3–5 distinguenda.

Trees 8–12 m tall, 30–40 cm D.B.H., trunk straight, terete; bark grayish with transverse lenticels; inner bark yellowish; wood hard. Leafy branchlets densely grayish tomentulous with curled and matted hairs. Leaves alternate, distant; petioles 2.5–3.5 cm long; lamina 9–19 cm long, 5–7.5 cm broad, narrowly ovate to ovate-elliptic or ovate-oblong, tapering to a short-acuminate apex, obtuse to rounded at the base, the sides of lamina unequal at the base with the sides 2–6 mm distant on the petiole, drying stiffly chartaceous or subcoriaceous, the upper surface glabrous and lustrous but with hairs above the slightly elevated proximal major veins, tertiary venation slightly elevated, lower surface densely yel-

lowish gray or whitish gray tomentulous, the hairs minute (0.1–0.3 mm) and curved, with 3–5 major secondary veins on each side, the basal secondaries often strongly ascending, central secondaries arising at angles of 35°–50°. Young leaves very dense brownish tomentose. Inflorescences solitary and axillary to distal leaves or undeveloped leaves near the shoot tip, paniculate with short lateral branches subtended by conspicuous (4–7 mm) oblong bracts, peduncle, rachis and bracts densely brownish gray tomentulous. Flowers white, delicately scented; 6 tepals 4–5 mm long, 3 mm wide, externally pubescent, internally scarcely papillose; 9 fertile stamens, 6 outer, 3 inner, subsessile, thick, fleshy, smooth with hairs at base of filaments; glands sessile, 0.6 mm long. Ovary ovoid, glabrous. Style 1 mm long; stigma capitate. Cup 8–13 mm long, obconic, red-tinged. Berry ellipsoid, 3.5 cm long, up to 2 cm wide, green to purple at maturity.

This new species and other Lauraceae are an important food source of one of the most beautiful birds in Central America: the resplendent quetzal (*Pharomachros mocinno*), hence the name. *Ocotea pharomachrosorum* is easily distinguished by its dense gray tomentum of branchlets and undersides of leaves; unusual long petioles to 3.5 cm long; subcoriaceous leaves with only 3–4 pairs of major veins and sides of the lamina unequal at the base. Moreover, the young leaves and shoots are conspicuously dense brownish tomentose. It is presently known from the Pacific slope of the Cordillera de Talamanca in Costa Rica, and adjacent Chiriquí highlands in Panama, from 1,600 to ca. 2,300 m elevation.

Paratypes. Same locality as type: Julio Sánchez s.n. (CR, USJ). PANAMA. CHIRIQUÍ. Vic. of Boquete, Finca Collins, El Velo, 12 Mar. 1963 (US) Stearn et al. 1985.

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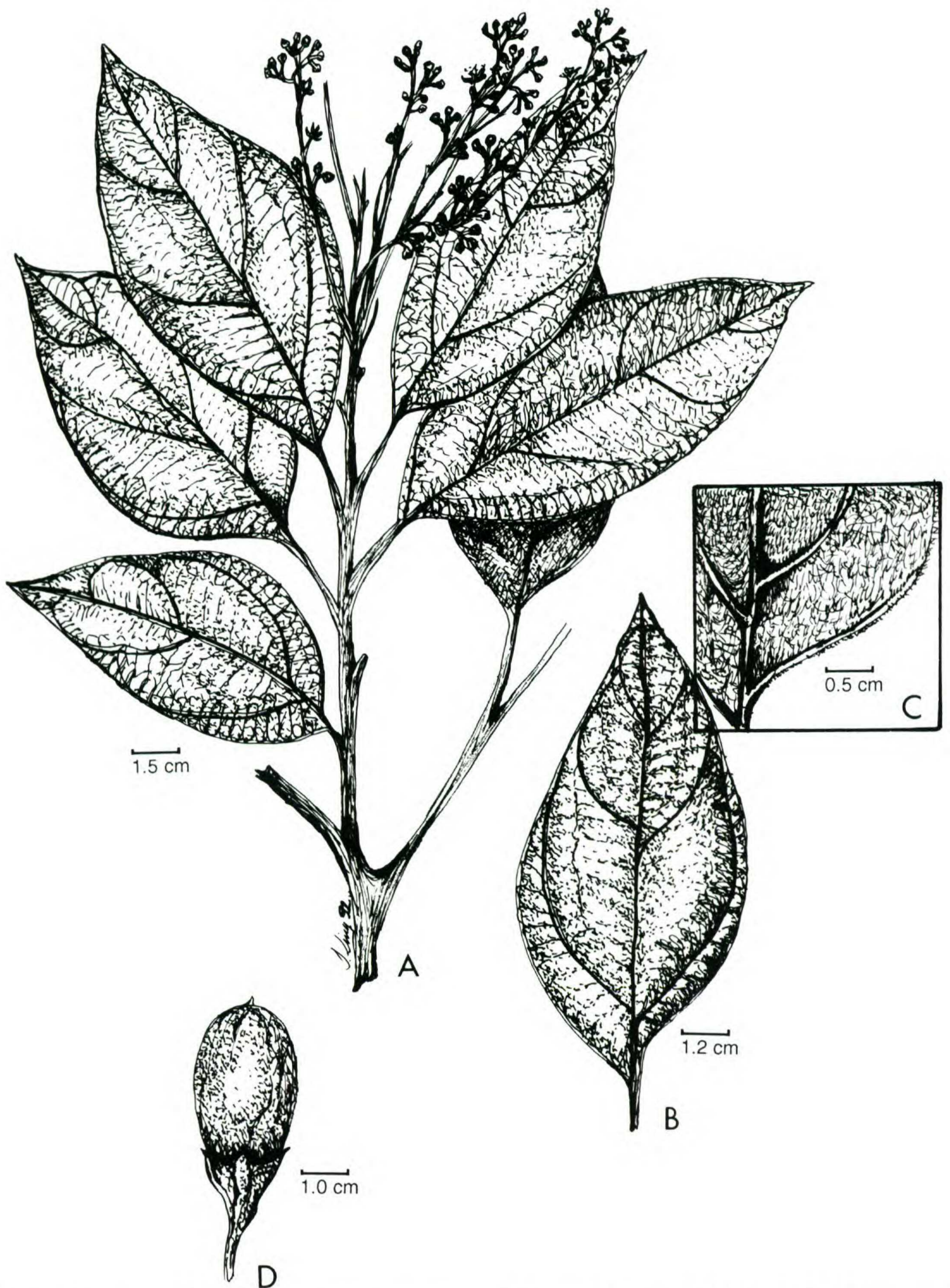


Figure 1. *Ocotea pharomachrosorum* Gómez-Laurito. —A. Flowering branch. —B. Leaf. —C. Leaf base. —D. Fruit. Drawing by Ileana Ling.

script, and Julio Sánchez (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica) who brought the type locality to my attention.

Literature Cited

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- Rohwer, J. 1991. Borderline cases between *Ocotea*, *Nectandra*, and *Phoebe* (Lauraceae): The "marginal" species of the *Ocotea helecterifolia*-group, including the *O. heydeana*-group. Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 112(3): 365-397.